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March 13, 2015

NWT Labour Force Activity
- February 2015 -

Statistics Canada estimates that in February 2015, out of 32,200 residents 15 years of age and older 21,800 persons were employed in the Northwest Territories, representing an employment rate of 67.7%. (Table 1). Nationally, Canada's employment rate was 60.5%.

Table 1 Monthly Highlights
Northwest Territories, February 2015

	Feb-15	Jan-15	Feb-14
Population	32,200	32,300	32,500
Labour Force	23,600	23,400	24,000
Employed	21,800	21,600	22,100
Unemployed	1,800	1,800	1,900
Not in Labour Force	8,600	8,900	8,600
Participation (%)	73.3	72.4	73.8
Employment (%)	67.7	66.9	68.0
Unemployment (%)	7.6	7.7	7.9

Since last month, the number of employed increased by approximately 200 persons, resulting in an employment rate increase of 0.8 percentage points. This is only the third monthly increase in the past 12 months, the other two occurring in July and April of last year.

Despite the employment rate increase last month, it remains below historical rates for February.

Figure 1 ***Persons Not in the Labour Force and Employment Rate***
Northwest Territories, 2013 – 2015

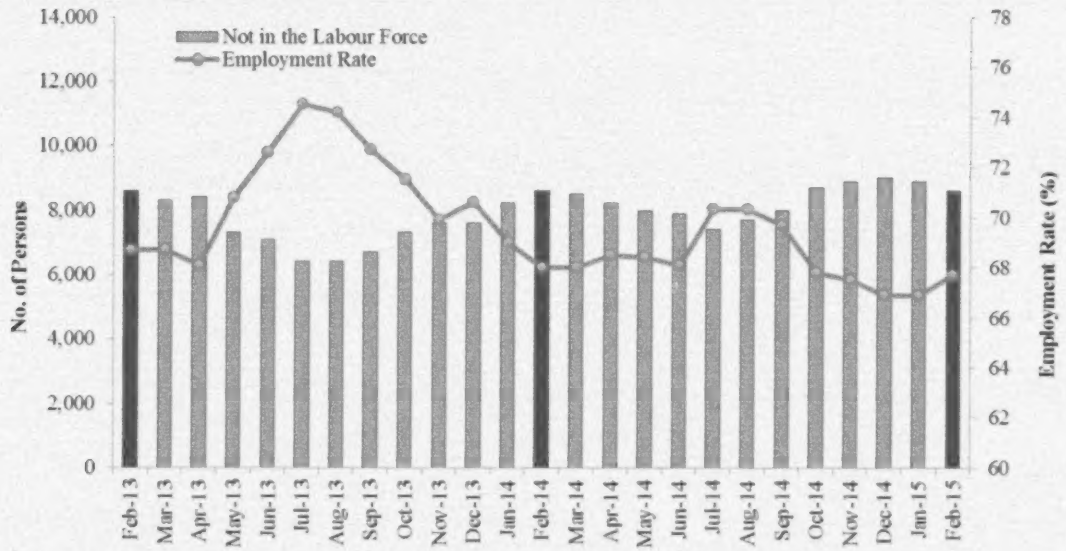

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Table 2 shows the number of employed persons and the employment rate by key characteristics for the month of February since 2013. Compared to 2014, employment rates for males decreased by 3.4 percentage points while females increased by 3.1. Similarly, the employment rate for those living outside Yellowknife decreased by 3.2 while those in Yellowknife increased by 3.5 percentage points.

Table 2 ***Employment Rates by Key Characteristics Northwest Territories***

	Feb-15		Feb-14		Feb-13	
	Employed (Persons)	Employment Rate (%)	Employed (Persons)	Employment Rate (%)	Employed (Persons)	Employment Rate (%)
Northwest Territories	21,800	67.7	22,100	68.0	22,400	68.7
15-24 Yrs.	2,700	44.3	2,900	45.3	2,800	42.4
25 Yrs. & Over	19,100	73.2	19,200	73.3	19,600	75.4
Males	10,800	66.7	11,500	70.1	11,600	69.9
Females	11,100	68.9	10,600	65.8	10,800	67.5
Aboriginal	7,900	52.7	7,700	52.4	7,300	51.4
Non-Aboriginal	14,000	81.4	14,400	80.4	15,100	82.1
Yellowknife	12,500	80.6	12,100	77.1	12,800	80.5
Other	9,400	56.3	10,000	59.5	9,600	57.5

The number of employed persons decreased by 300 between February 2014 and February 2015. While the number of self-employed persons decreased by 500, those working in the public sector increased by 300.

Table 2 ***Monthly and Yearly Change in Employment by Selected Characteristics Northwest Territories, October 2014***

	Feb-15	Jan-15	Feb-14	Jan-15 to Feb-15 Change (persons)	Feb-14 to Feb-15
Total Employment	21,800	21,600	22,100	200	(300)
Full-time	19,600	19,300	19,800	300	(200)
Part-time	2,200	2,200	2,300	-	(100)
Employees	20,200	19,900	20,000	300	200
Public	9,300	9,100	9,000	200	300
Private	10,900	10,800	11,000	100	(100)
Self-employment	1,600	1,700	2,100	(100)	(500)
Goods Producing	3,600	3,600	3,800	-	(200)
Service Producing	18,200	18,000	18,300	200	(100)

The following table presents historical labour force activity in the Northwest Territories.

Table 3 ***Labour Force Activity***
Northwest Territories

	Population 15 & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the Labour Force	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Employment Rate
Feb-15	32,200	23,600	21,800	1,800	8,600	73.3	7.6	67.7
Jan-15	32,300	23,400	21,600	1,800	8,900	72.4	7.7	66.9
Dec-14	32,300	23,300	21,600	1,700	9,000	72.1	7.3	66.9
Nov-14	32,300	23,400	21,800	1,700	8,900	72.4	7.3	67.5
Oct-14	32,300	23,700	21,900	1,800	8,700	73.4	7.6	67.8
Sep-14	32,300	24,300	22,500	1,800	8,000	75.2	7.4	69.7
Aug-14	32,300	24,600	22,700	1,900	7,700	76.2	7.7	70.3
Jul-14	32,300	24,900	22,700	2,200	7,400	77.1	8.8	70.3
Jun-14	32,300	24,400	22,000	2,400	7,900	75.5	9.8	68.1
May-14	32,300	24,300	22,100	2,200	8,000	75.2	9.1	68.4
Apr-14	32,400	24,200	22,200	2,100	8,200	74.7	8.7	68.5
Mar-14	32,500	24,000	22,100	1,800	8,500	73.8	7.5	68.0
Previous Years:								
Feb-14	32,500	24,000	22,100	1,900	8,600	73.8	7.9	68.0
Feb-13	32,600	24,000	22,400	1,600	8,600	73.6	6.7	68.7
Feb-12	32,300	24,500	22,400	2,100	7,800	75.9	8.6	69.3
Feb-11	32,100	23,900	22,200	1,800	8,200	74.5	7.5	69.2
Feb-10	31,800	22,200	20,900	1,300	9,600	69.8	5.9	65.7
Feb-09	31,700	22,500	21,800	700	9,200	71.0	3.1	68.8
Feb-08	31,800	23,900	22,400	1,500	7,800	75.2	6.3	70.4
Feb-07	31,300	24,500	23,500	1,000	6,900	78.3	4.1	75.1
Feb-06	31,200	24,000	22,800	1,200	7,200	76.9	5.0	73.1
Feb-05	31,100	24,200	22,600	1,500	6,900	77.8	6.2	72.7

Information on the territorial labour market is a result of the extension of Statistics Canada's national labour force survey (LFS) to the Northwest Territories. Data presented for the Northwest Territories is based on three-month moving averages, with survey counts rounded to the nearest 100 persons.

For additional information on the monthly release of labour force survey results for the Northwest Territories, visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at http://www.statsnwt.ca or call (867) 873-7147.

Next Release: April 10, 2015.